We offer a variety of materials you can borrow for use offsite or while you visit. Materials are appropriate for teachers, families, and youth group leaders seeking curriculum supplements, family activities, or assistance with badge requirements. Materials are free to use however a $2.00 per day late fee is assessed on materials returned after the due date. Borrow up to two kits at a time for a two-week period. Reservations are recommended. (815) 479-5779 | Education@MCCDistrict.org

**McHenry County Conservation District Educational Materials**
The “Naturalist in a Box” and “Backyard Buddy” kits are checked out from and returned to the Prairieview Education Center in Crystal Lake.

“Naturalist in a Box” Kits, Grades 1-8
Available Topics: Astronomy, Bats, Birds, Butterflies, Creepy Crawlies, Geology, Hawks and Owls, Mammals, Native Americans, Plants, Prairies, Trees, and Wetlands

“Backyard Buddy” Kits, Grades PreK-2
Available Topics: Chipmunk, Ladybug, Otter, Cottontail Rabbit, Raccoon, Squirrel, and Groundhog

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources Educational Materials**
We are a lending site for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources educational trunks. The following topics are available and are checked out from and returned to the Prairieview Education Center in Crystal Lake.

Illinois Birds, Grades 3-8          Illinois Fossils, Grades 3-8
Illinois Trees, Grades Prek-10     Aquatic Illinois, Grades 3-12
Illinois Prairies, Grades K-8      Illinois State Symbols, Grades K-8
Illinois Wild Mammals, Grades K-8  Illinois Insects & Spiders, Grades PreK-8
People & Animals from Illinois’ Past, Grades K-6
Field Trip Pack for Early Educators, Grades PreK-3

**Water Quality Monitoring Kits**
We provide water quality monitoring materials for multiple age groups. They contain reference materials, curriculum guides, water quality monitoring manuals, test kits, and the necessary equipment for biological monitoring. The materials in the kits are tailored to meet the needs of your group. To reserve a kit or schedule assistance with biological or chemical monitoring, contact the Outreach Program Coordinator at (815) 678-4532, ext. 8117. Please schedule your pick up date at least two weeks in advance.
**Hiker Trail Packs**

Families, youth groups, and adults are welcome to borrow these Hiker Trail Packs when they visit the Prairieview Education Center or the Lost Valley Visitor Center. The packs are for on site use only. A driver’s license must be left at the center during use and materials returned one half hour prior to closing. Adult supervision is required. Hiker Trail Packs are available first come, first served during center business hours.

**Prairieview Education Center**
2112 Behan Road  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
(815) 479-5779 | Education@MCCDistrict.org  
Monday-Friday  9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Saturday  12:30 -4:30 p.m.  
Closed Sunday

**Lost Valley Visitor Center**
Route 31 and Harts Road  
Ringwood, IL 60072  
(815) 678-4532  
November-March  9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. daily  
April-October  9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily

**Family Exploration Packs** | These packs are available at both the Prairieview Education Center and the Lost Valley Visitor Center. They contain seasonal activities you can do out on the trails with your family.

**Map and Compass Packs** | These packs are designed to be used on the map and compass course at Prairieview Education Center. The pack contains maps, compasses, and instructions for map reading activities and compass use. Each pack has supplies for up to 24 participants. We recommend one adult for every four children.

**Prairieview Field Pack** | This pack is for adult use only, ages 18 and up. Choose from a list of items to include in your pack that will enhance your hike out on the trails. Available only at the Prairieview Education Center.

**Geocaching Pack** | This pack is designed for use on the geocache course at Prairieview Education Center. The pack contains two GPS units with instructions for use and scavenger hunt worksheets. A group of two or three people per GPS unit is recommended. We recommend one adult for every four children.

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**Planning a Group Visit to a Conservation District Area?**

A permit is required for any group of 16 or more people visiting a Conservation Area, and for any size group that would like exclusive use of a picnic area, campground, or shelter. Visit our website to make basic reservations online. Some reservations must be made by phone and may require a Special Use License Agreement and Certificate of Insurance. Fees may apply depending on the use and group size.

Requests for permits to carry out research projects are handled by our Land Preservation and Natural Resources Division. For additional information contact Tom Simpson at tsimpson@MCCDistrict.org or at 815-678-4532, ext. 8218.